

ReferencePoint

University Libraries' Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 1

Historic conflict rising

Exhibit examines Michigan prior to Civil War's start 150 years ago

During the mid-1800s every state in the U.S. – including Michigan – was preparing for a war that changed the nation forever.

As America marks 150 years since the start of the Civil War, the Clarke Historical Library's new exhibit, "Moving Toward the Precipice: Michigan in the Years Before the Civil War," depicts the state of Michigan in the years leading up to it.

The exhibit offers a glimpse into Michigan life in the decades prior to the Civil War to help viewers better understand what – beyond the debate over slavery – was important and what Michiganders took to war in 1861.

Agriculture was the most common source of employment in Michigan in the years leading up to the Civil War. In addition, there was both ethnic and religious conflict, as well as tremendous social, political and economic changes. The Clarke exhibit includes images and literature relevant to these and other issues critical to the time period.

"History matters because it gives you a context to understand the present and a direction for the future," says Frank Boles,

director of the Clarke Historical Library. "If you don't understand the context, you get swept away in the rhetoric."

Roy Burlington agrees and is providing his insight to help with developing a special feature of the exhibit: coins and currency used prior to the Civil War. Burlington, a CMU biology professor emeritus, is an amateur historian and avid coin enthusiast.

"We live in a great country, and it's important to know where our country came from," he says.

Burlington recently met with Janet Danek, University Libraries coordinator of exhibits and projects, to discuss what coins and currency to feature and how they relate to the culture of the times.

"Objects are just objects until you put a story with them," Danek says.

One of the most important of such items in the years leading up to the Civil War were the Hard Times Tokens, according to Burlington. These tokens were privately produced and served as unofficial currency during the difficult pre-war decades. Many



Library exhibit coordinator Janet Danek and local coin enthusiast Roy Burlington explore facts about pre-Civil War-era coinage.

of the tokens included satirical and political messages, including those that were pro- and antislavery. The exhibit will feature representative Hard Times Tokens as well as actual coins produced by the U.S. Mint. •

'Moving Toward the Precipice: Michigan in the Years Before the Civil War'

An exhibit depicting the state of Michigan in the years leading up to the Civil War, which began 150 years ago

- Through August 2011
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
- clarke.cmich.edu

Online challenge accepted

ReferencePoint

Reference Point is published biannually by University Libraries.

Address questions and suggestions to:
Office of the Dean
Park Library 407D
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

Editorial Board

Thomas J. Moore
Dean of Libraries

Richard Cochran
Associate Dean of Libraries

Megan Moreno, '06
Director of Development and
Community Outreach

Gerry Edgar
Manager, Library Business Services
Reference Point Coordinator

Production

CMU University Communications

Writers

Dan Digmann
Sharasa Henley
Kelly Kobylczyk
Kayla Rusin
Jennifer Sula

Editor

Dan Digmann

Designer

Amy Gouin

Photographers

Robert Barclay
Peggy Brisbane

Printing

CMU Printing Services

Libraries' website

lib.cmich.edu

Academic Year Library Hours

Mon - Thurs: 7:50 a.m. - Midnight
Fri: 7:50 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun: Noon - Midnight

Reference Desk

989-774-3470
libref@cmich.edu

Libraries aggressively responding to increased course offerings



Tom Moore

In the CMU Libraries we like challenges, and we have plenty of them. Keeping up with steadily advancing scholarly information needs at the university and responding proactively to ceaseless technological change provide

lots of opportunities to test our talents and use our resources smartly to serve students and faculty.

An area of challenge on which the Libraries have put special attention this past year is furnishing more integrated service to students enrolled in CMU's burgeoning online classes.

Did you know that CMU offers 203 different courses online? How about a dozen degree programs wholly or mostly online, including an M.B.A. and the doctor of health administration?

Last semester there were 7,168 registrations for online courses. Moreover, for several academic years there's been a 20 percent rate of growth in online courses offered over the past academic year. Since students enrolled in online courses and programs can be anywhere in the world, including on campus in Mount Pleasant, you can imagine there are legions of implications for library services.

Fortunately we have a long, and truly venerable, practice of serving students at a distance from campus through Off-Campus Library Services. When online courses began emerging in numbers several years ago, OCLS librarians took the lead to address the needs of their students. Yet, with the recent tremendous growth of online courses across disciplines, and more Mount Pleasant students taking them, we decided to deploy extra support.

Reference Services librarians recently have joined hands with OCLS librarians to focus on online courses and to strive together for a high-quality, seamless approach regardless of student location. What's more, our document delivery services have also become more integrated, resulting in enhanced efficiency in addition to continued superior services. Online student support is one area of CMU library services achieving noteworthy progress.

Remembering Norman Clarke Jr. and John Cumming

I'm saddened to report that two people instrumental to the growth of the Clarke Historical Library died in November. Norman Clarke Jr., whose father provided the original gift and thereby the name for the Clarke Historical Library, was an active, valued member of the Clarke Library Board of Governors for 25 years. John Cumming was director of the Library from 1961 to 1982, after which he maintained the role of director emeritus and inimitable member of the university community. With their passing, so passes as well the early era of this marvelous library.



Norman Clarke Jr.

I hope you like the articles, and extra features available online, in this issue of Reference Point. Let us know your thoughts and if you have questions.

Tom Moore

Tom Moore
Dean of Libraries

Library Longevity

Responding to today's challenges through four decades of experience

By using home computers, cell phones, iPads, iPods and other electronic devices, students have myriad information sources readily available with the click of a button.

But increasingly convenient technology hasn't kept students away from the library. Ask David Shirley and Pat Thelen, and they'll say they've seen the tides of technology over the past four decades make the libraries even more invaluable.

Shirley and Thelen both recently celebrated working more than 40 years at Park Library. Shirley is the government documents librarian, and Thelen is the Clarke Historical Library scanning and digitalizing specialist.

"With the increase of information, librarians are more important than ever," Shirley says. "We act as go-betweens and interpreters. We all have our areas of expertise."

In addition to responding to the expanded technology, Thelen also is responding to patrons' increased interest in genealogy.

"People increasingly are looking for digital images of our state's history, whether for a term paper or family research, and that's where our digitizing area meets the needs of a changing demographic."

From the beginning

Since Shirley started working for the library in August 1970, he has seen the library develop from having a huge card catalog on the second floor to 1988 when CMU got its first automated, integrated library system – based on mainframe computing – to 1998 when CMU got the system it uses today.

Shirley serves as a reference librarian as well as manager of CMU's Federal Depository Library collection. The Federal Depository Library Program identifies, catalogs and ensures permanent public access to government publications.

"While my main responsibility is serving as government documents librarian and manager of our Federal Depository collection, my secondary work and more recent responsibility is serving as the foreign languages and geography subject librarian," says Shirley.

When Thelen first started with the Libraries, she worked as an office manager and then transitioned to library technical services. For the past eight years Thelen has worked in Clarke Historical Library, where her responsibilities include maintaining its website and digitizing and scanning photographs from patrons and within the Clarke collection.



David Shirley shares his insights about the Libraries' Federal Depository collection with student employee Stefan Borghesani.

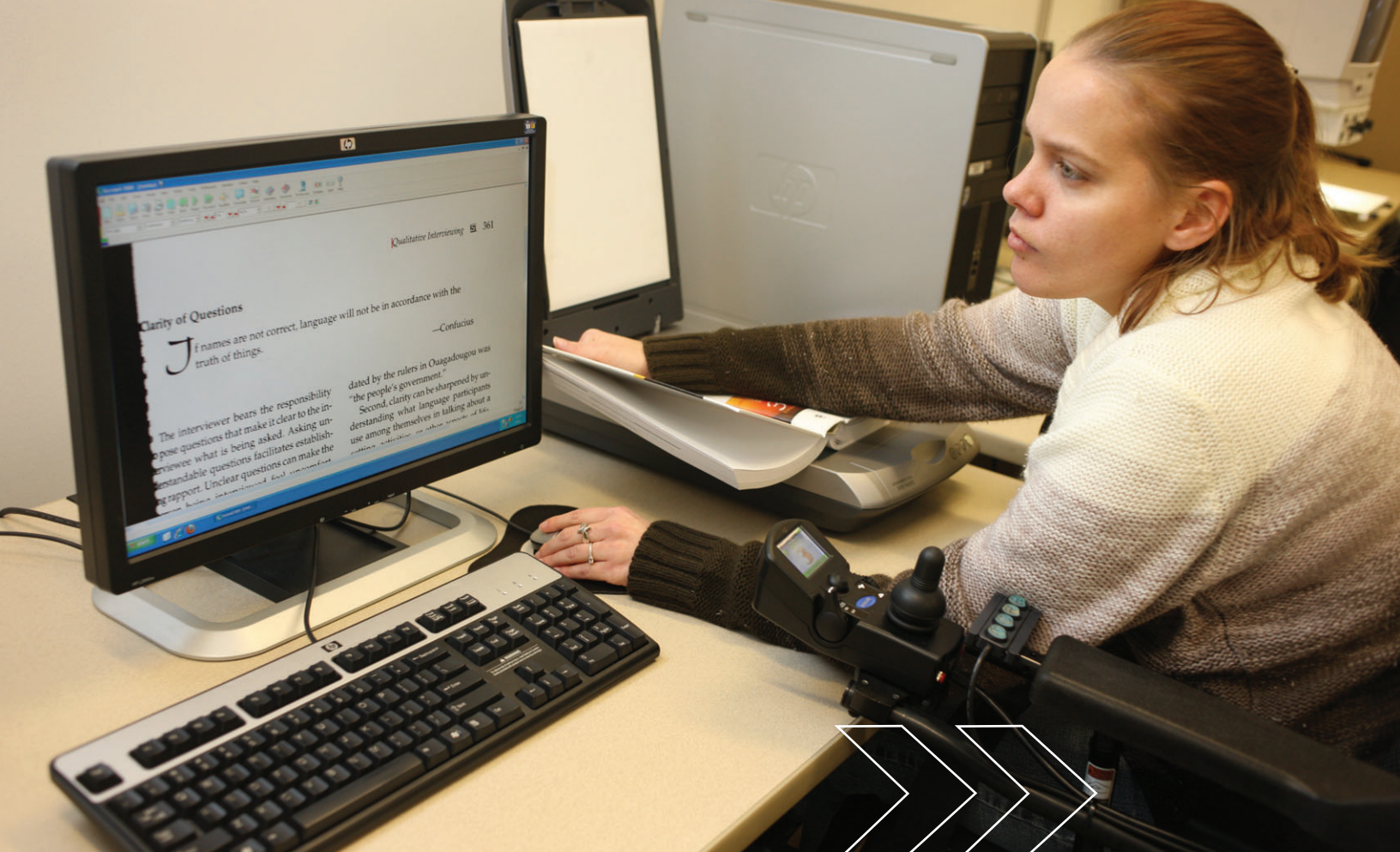
"One of my favorite things is seeing someone's face light up when they find a picture of a relative in a book, and I get the opportunity to scan and duplicate that picture for them," Thelen says.

Shirley and Thelen work in different areas of the Libraries, but they say they've invested so many years because they enjoy their colleagues and the services the Libraries provide. "Over the years the library staff's level of enthusiasm has never ceased to amaze me," Shirley says.

In addition to serving members of the university and area communities, Thelen says she is thankful for the opportunity to work directly with students. "The student interns I have had have kept in touch," she says. "It's great to see students succeed." •



Pat Thelen displays a photograph she is digitizing in Clarke Historical Library.



CMU senior Carrie Swearingen positions her textbook on the Student Disability Services visualizer located in Park Library. Swearingen, who has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, is one of more than 500 students registered with Student Disability Services.

Encouraging *accessibility*



Library strives to ensure service to all

It's easy for most patrons to never really recognize and appreciate the intentional and subtle design features of Park Library.

The buttercream yellow paint of the interior. No-slip flooring materials. Automatic doors. Wainscoting-type railing running the perimeter walls. Motion-activated restroom faucets.

But for students like Carrie Swearingen, many of these are the first features they notice and celebrate.

Swearingen is a senior history major and geography minor from Flint who has lived with Spinal Muscular Atrophy since she was a little over 2 years old. This neuromuscular disease – characterized by degeneration of motor neurons – limits her ability to walk, and she needs to use a powered wheelchair for mobility.

She says the universal design and handicapped-accessible elements of Park Library elevate it to what she considers the most accessible building on campus.

Wainscoting-type railing

"The library was the first building I ever went into on campus, and I absolutely loved it," says Swearingen, one of 517 students registered with CMU's Student Disability Services Office. "I love the sliding-glass doors, and the bathrooms here are the only ones on campus that I'll use."

According to Susie Rood, CMU's Student Disability Services Office director, among the accessible features of the library are:

- Buttercream yellow paint to help reduce epileptic seizures and assist patrons with depth perception concerns;
- No-slip flooring materials to aid in traction of motorized and manual wheelchairs during wet weather;
- Automatic and power-assist doors and motion-activated restroom faucets to make them easier for people with mobility and dexterity limitations to use; and
- Wainscoting-type railing running the perimeter walls to guide the visually impaired throughout the library.

Marking ADA's 20th anniversary

Accessibility-related conversations have risen to the forefront over the past year as Americans have observed the 20th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act into law and proclaiming, "Let the shameful walls of exclusion finally come tumbling down."

This historic piece of civil rights legislation was pivotal in providing equal access for individuals with disabilities in areas such as employment, entertainment and housing.

Park Library planners embraced such accessibility when they planned the library renovation and expansion in the 1990s.

Relocating Student Disability Services from Foust Hall to Park Library was an integral part of the plan, says Robert Faleer, a reference librarian and library SDS liaison.

"When planning the building and working with the architect, we wanted to make (the library) accessible and a place for everybody," Faleer says.

This move to a centrally located, highly accessible facility has worked perfectly for the office and services it provides students, Rood says.

CMU is committed to providing students with disabilities the academic accommodations and auxiliary aids necessary to ensure access to all university services, programs and activities, and SDS is responsible for determining these accommodations.

"The transition to the library has been seamless, and it is probably the best universally designed building on campus," Rood says. "One of the great things about the library is that because they're aware of any areas where they may lack, they're great at training and informing staff so they make sure they take care of the students' needs."

In addition to the accessible features in Park Library, within SDS there are various support systems and a study room with adaptive equipment – such as visualizers, enlargers, magnifiers and recorders – to help serve students with various disabilities. •



Automatic sliding glass doors



Student Disability Services Director Susie Rood says Park Library "... is probably the best universally designed building on campus."

Planning ahead and for today



Megan Moreno

Charitable annuity provides donor and Libraries immediate benefits

I hope that so far 2011 has been good to you. It's been my pleasure to meet many of you over the past six months. I've enjoyed hearing stories about your time at CMU and great experiences with, and regard for, the Libraries.

I'd like to take this opportunity to share an excellent way to make a planned contribution to the Libraries while generating a stable income for yourself for the rest of your life. A Charitable

Gift Annuity provides many benefits and at the same time can make a real difference in the future of the CMU Libraries.

How it works:

- CMU will send you a Charitable Gift Annuity agreement in exchange for your gift (\$5,000 minimum in a check, stocks or bonds) to the Libraries.
- CMU will mail you payments each year for the rest of your life.
- Once established, fixed regular payments of a specific amount can be counted on no matter what happens to financial markets.
- A charitable annuity may be established on the basis of two lives (such as yours and a spouse's), so that fixed income payments are made until the end of both lives.

- Income payments are based on age at the time the annuity is established and are higher for increasingly senior persons.

- At the end of your life (or the end of both lives with a two-life annuity), the remainder of the principal you've transferred will support the CMU Libraries' work in the area you've designated.

Among the many other benefits of a Charitable Gift Annuity are an immediate charitable income tax deduction and, in most instances, payments that are partially tax-free. I'd be pleased to provide you with an illustration, based on your age, showing how a gift annuity could benefit you. It could help you decide whether a gift annuity is an appropriate way to do yourself a favor and support the CMU Libraries at the same time.

Whether you have an interest in gift annuities or other information about other opportunities to give to the Libraries, please contact me at megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu or 989-774-1826.

Megan R. Moreno, '06
Director of Development and
Community Outreach



Off-campus connections

Student services inspire alumnus to support Libraries

To this day Jeff Meyers refers back to textbooks from the classes he took through CMU's Off-Campus Programs center in Auburn Hills 20 years ago.



Jeff and Ann Meyers

They often come in handy when he's developing job descriptions for hiring new members for his information technology team that provides technical support to nearly 400 employees at the Metro Detroit-based Chrysler headquarters.

While the textbooks are great resources, and Meyers applauds how well the CMU Master of Science in Administration program enhanced his professional endeavors, these aren't what first come to mind when he thinks of his graduate experiences.

What he remembers most is the assistance he received from the CMU Libraries.

"Whenever I needed research materials, I'd submit a request and have everything I needed within one or two days," says Meyers, who graduated with his M.S.A. in 1991. "The library service was really impressive and helpful to me completing my degree, and I still appreciate that today."

Because of this Meyers annually makes a gift to the CMU Libraries, putting him among the top annual CMU Off-Campus Programs alumni donors.

"I want to see the library continue to thrive and be accessible to all CMU students," Meyers says. "The library is invaluable, and it provides the resources and staffing that enable students to be successful."

Meyers earned his undergraduate degree at Wayne State University and was working at Chrysler when he realized he needed a graduate degree to be promoted to a management position within the company. When he started investigating his options, he learned of several colleagues who were enrolled in CMU's off-campus M.S.A. program.

This was the first he had heard of the off-campus program, but Meyers already was familiar with CMU. His mother, Geraldine Williams, attended CMU and was 1951 Homecoming queen.

"I wanted a good, solid program, and when I heard about CMU's M.S.A. program I thought, 'I can do that,'" says Meyers, who completed his degree within

I want to see the library
continue to thrive and be
accessible to all students.

two years while working full time. "I was apprehensive about going back to school, but CMU really paid attention to the details of helping working professionals through the program."

Meyers lives in Bloomfield Hills with his wife, Ann. The couple has two sons – Adam and Alex. While Adam attends Oakland Community College, Alex is a junior theatre major at CMU who also is involved with the student vocal groups. •

Friends to host NPR's Don Gonyea

Annual luncheon is May 14

NPR national political correspondent Don Gonyea is the 2011 CMU Friends of the Libraries Luncheon speaker.

The invitation-only event is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, May 14, in the Park Library Auditorium.

Gonyea spends much of this time covering major campaigns, elections and the political happenings throughout the country. His storied career includes reporting from the White House on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, reporting the Bush administration's prosecution of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, as well as other stories worldwide.

In 1986 Gonyea got his start at NPR reporting from Detroit on labor unions and the automobile industry, Dr. Jack Kevorkian's assisted-suicide crusade, and the 1999 closing of Tiger Stadium.



Don Gonyea

Gonyea, a native of Monroe, Mich., and a Michigan State University graduate, has won numerous national and state awards for his reporting. He was part of the team that earned NPR a 2000 George Foster Peabody Award for the "All Things Considered" series "Lost & Found Sound."

To learn more about this event or how you can become a Friend – for which, effective March 1, 2011, the minimum annual donation will be a single gift of \$75 – contact Megan Moreno, director of library development and community outreach, at

- 989-774-1826
- megan.r.moreno@cmich.edu

Relevant resources

Keeping books current

An American Library Association document from 2010 delved into information technology and 21st century libraries.

Among its conclusions, "... libraries of the future will need to tailor their programming to a new generation of learners with a facility for processing digital as well as printed information."

This is especially true for libraries at institutions of higher learning, including Park Library, which are striving to find the proper balance between print and electronic resources.



Livonia junior Dan Johns searches the shelves for a book by Kurt Vonnegut he read about online.

In addition to more than 1 million volumes on 33 miles of electronically movable shelving, Park Library continually increases the number of e-journals and e-books available for research and leisure purposes.

This shift toward more electronic resources raises questions about printed materials' relevancy in academic research, such as when a student locates a book that was printed in 1952 and was last checked out during the Reagan administration. The student may think that in a time of up-to-date electronic resources the most current information available online is more credible.

Not necessarily so, says Richard Cochran, associate dean of CMU Libraries. To determine the book's relevance, he says the student must identify the purpose of the research and then assess what information is needed regardless of its print or digital format.

"For example, history is well-known for its dependence on works from certain eras for their points of view," Cochran says. "Even if it is available electronically, a digitized book is still preserving the content of the original book."

One CMU English faculty member is quick to point out that books, regardless of age, still are "absolutely" relevant. Nate Smith, an assistant professor, recently checked out several stacks of books to write a journal article and prepare for a class about Shakespeare.

"There are ideas in here not addressed in current scholarship," says Smith as he flips through the 1962 book "Shakespeare and the Idea of the Play" by Anne Barton. "What's interesting is a lot of the books I check out I've found in the footnotes of articles I've read online."

In a quiet corner study room, English faculty member Nate Smith pours through a stack of books to gather research for a journal article he's developing.



with technology

Enhanced information

Robin Sabo is a health professions and reference librarian who believes electronic tools are enhancing student and faculty access to information available in books.

"Google Books has digitized many books and made them widely available," Sabo says. "Using the Internet and online catalogs are ways that help readers locate books that they can find in the library."

It makes sense that searching online is the primary way that Dan Johns, who's majoring in information technology, locates his books in Park Library. But most times the junior from Livonia isn't looking for research materials.

One recent Tuesday afternoon Johns was perusing the shelves for a book by Kurt Vonnegut to read for leisure.

"I go online to see the reviews of the books. Then I'll come to the library to check out the book as well as browse to see what else is available," he says.

As a major in the ever-changing field of technology, Johns says his academic-related research often is electronically based to ensure the information he's using is the most up-to-date. Still Johns is confident people in academic and cultural settings will continue utilizing printed books and information.

"I do a lot of my book reading in the coffee shop, and several times I've had people come up to me and say, 'Hey, I read that' or 'Have you ever read this other one?'" he says. "They'd never see what I was reading, and I'd never have this kind of interaction, if I were using an e-reader."

"Print isn't dying. It's just changing." •



Materials in demand Service tells story of popularity

Sam Strachan can confirm that students still use printed books for research and reading.

The Libraries' student employee spends at least an hour during each of her shifts walking through the stacks and collecting materials – articles within books as well as entire books – for patrons who request them through the Documents on Demand service. The service is available to collect materials and coordinate their delivery for CMU on-campus, online and off-campus students and faculty.

"We're usually pretty busy," says Strachan, a senior health fitness major from Harrison Township. "There's always somebody from Documents on Demand out here collecting the materials."

In addition to gathering items for Documents on Demand, Strachan collects books, CDs, DVDs and other items as requested through the Michigan e-Library Catalog and Resource Sharing System (MelCat).



Libraries' student employee Sam Strachan uses a cart to gather items requested through Documents on Demands.

MelCat, which is sponsored by the Library of Michigan, is the statewide union catalog and resource service designed to share materials among Michigan libraries. If a local library doesn't have the material in its collection, library patrons can access the item from another library in the state through MelCat.

"Librarians are concerned about helping people get and use information, and we're fortunate Michigan is among the very progressive states to have had librarians develop a patron-initiated borrowing system," says Richard Cochran, associate dean of CMU Libraries, adding that MelCat is rapidly increasing in the number of people it serves.

Visit library.cmich.edu to learn more about CMU's Documents on Demand and visit elibrary.mel.org to learn more about MelCat. •

Artful inspiration

CMU Libraries' exhibits and events calendar

lib.cmich.edu/exhibits

'Imagining the Fantastic'

An exhibition of fantasy imagery and sculpture in collaboration with the CMU Department of English

- April 2011
- Baber Room, Park Library

'Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic and Medicine'

An exhibition about the historical roots of a modern sensation

- April 1 through April 30
- Third Floor Exhibit Area, Park Library

Painting and Ceramics

Featuring Libraries' new acquisitions

- May through June 2011
- Baber Room, Park Library

'Moving Toward the Precipice: Michigan in the Years Before the Civil War'

An exhibit depicting the state of Michigan in the years leading up to the Civil War, which began 150 years ago

- Through August 2011
- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at Clarke Historical Library
- clarke.cmich.edu

Danek brings nearly 25 years experience to exhibit designs

Janet Danek hit the ground running as the recently hired CMU Libraries' coordinator of exhibits and projects.

Danek is leading the effort to transition Park Library's Extended Hours Study Room to the Extended Hours Study Room and Student Gallery. In the future she hopes to see more collaboration between students from other departments who would like to exhibit their work.

Danek's favorite feature of her position is working with the arts and artists.

"I consider my job to make it as easy as possible for patrons of Park Library to feel as inspired by art as I am," she says.

Currently living in Midland, Danek has designed museum exhibits for nearly 25 years.

She has designed exhibits for the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, Oil and Brine Museum in Smackover, Ark., three exhibits for the American Bar Association in Chicago, First Division Museum in Wheaton, Ill., and Midland County History Gallery at the Doan Center in Midland.

Danek earned her bachelor of science degree in art and industrial and interior design from the University of Wisconsin, where she also taught design. •



Developing the Park Library Extended Hours Study Room and Student Gallery is among Janet Danek's first projects as the Libraries' exhibits and projects coordinator. Hanging the National Undergraduate Student Print Exchange and Exhibition in the new area are students Andrew Hawkes, left, Taro Takizawa and Carrie McCarthy. The exhibition is presented each year by the CMU Print Club, a student organization housed within the Department of Art and Design.

Science and fiction

National exhibit and campus-based events celebrate 'Harry Potter's World'

Magical creatures, fantastic beasts and potions are coming to Park Library in the form of an exhibit titled "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine." The exhibit will run from April 10 through May 22 on the third level of Park Library.

The American Medical Library Association and the American Library Association co-produced the three-panel display that informs patrons about natural medicine, philosophy and herbology.

Courtesy National Library of Medicine



Trading cards from 'Harry Potter's World' exhibition

While Harry Potter is about fantasy and magic, it is partially based on Renaissance traditions that played an important role in the development of Western science.

Park Library was awarded the exhibit partly because of the events envisioned to coincide with it, and it has had a great response from the CMU community. The English and philosophy departments have made commitments for events along with the Harry Potter Alliance, a registered student organization on campus. Writers and illustrators from as far away as England will come together at CMU for the closely related, but previously scheduled, "Imagining the Fantastic" conference, sponsored by the Department of English.

"We're very excited because of the collaboration opportunities," says Janet Danek, coordinator of exhibits and projects. "There is a lot of interest in Harry Potter."

With the second part of the seventh movie – "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" – hitting theaters this summer, many believe that it will be the end of an era. However, by bringing many different areas and interests together on the CMU campus, perhaps it is true that Harry Potter always will have a little bit of magic for everyone. •

Potter-palooza

CMU academic departments and campus and community organizations are hosting many events that complement the "Harry Potter's World: Renaissance Science, Magic, and Medicine" exhibit in Park Library

'Imagining the Fantastic'

An exhibition of fantasy imagery and sculpture in collaboration with the Department of English

- April 1 through April 30
- Baber Room, Park Library

'Tea & Fortune Telling with Sybil Trelawney'

Children's program taught by Kristen McDermott of the Department of English

- 3 p.m. Sunday, April 10
- Staff Lounge, Park Library

'Some Philosophical Themes in Harry Potter: Ethics and the Soul'

Featuring Joshua Smith of the CMU Department of Philosophy and Religion

- 7 p.m. April 12
- Park Library Auditorium

'From Hogwarts to the Academy: Scholarly Approaches to Harry Potter'

A Department of English Language and Literature faculty panel discussion

- 7 p.m. April 14
- Park Library Auditorium

'Imagining the Fantastic'

Presentations, panel discussions and harp concert by internationally known artists and writers, a banquet and American premiere screening of the film "Sir Lancelot"

- April 15 and 16
- Baber Room and Park Library Auditorium



Illustration by Charles Vess

'Potions and Tinctures'

Children's program taught by Naturopathic Doctor Kathryn Doran-Fisher of Herbs, Etc. (a Mount Pleasant-based naturopathic product and service provider)

- 3 p.m. April 17
- Staff Lounge, Park Library

Harry Potter Student Panel Discussion

Featuring the Harry Potter Alliance student organization

- 7 p.m. April 18
- Park Library Auditorium

'The Magic of Medicine'

Presentation by Sean K. Kesterson, M.D., FACP, of the CMU College of Medicine

- 7 p.m. April 19
- Park Library Auditorium

'Witches and Wizards: The History of Herbology'

Presentation by Kathryn Doran-Fisher, N.D., of Herbs, Etc.

- 7 p.m. April 26
- Park Library Auditorium

Harry Potter Jeopardy Game

Student competition

- 7 p.m. April 29
- Park Library Auditorium

Going about their research

Sessions help students tap into resources

Working with CMU faculty members, the Libraries are responding to students' need for locating relevant research related to their fields of study.

On a faculty member's request, a reference librarian who specializes in a particular academic area will present a library instruction session tailored to the research needs of that faculty member's course.

"What we are trying to do is give students information that will be relevant to their course," says Tim Peters, director of information services.

In each session, students are introduced to online links they can use to obtain information specific to their subject area and are informed of all the services available for assistance. Psychology faculty member Subhadra Dutta has used the instruction sessions for students enrolled in her Psychology 285 course.

"Knowing how to search for articles and books using library resources is an important cornerstone for conducting research," Dutta says.

One student taking notice of this is sophomore Rachel Olsen from Warren, Mich. She enrolled in Dutta's class and recently participated in an instruction session.

"I think since I am majoring in psychology I will have to do more than one research proposal by the end of my college career, so this session will be helpful when I take other courses for the major and even after I graduate," she says.

Stephanie Mathson, instruction/reference librarian, provides the best picture of the way that these instruction sessions impact the college career and course work of students.

"My favorite part of the sessions is when I see students' faces light up because they realize finding credible sources of information is not as hard as they initially fear, and the library has a vast wealth of resources for them no matter their academic discipline or research topic," Mathson says.

Faculty may schedule instruction sessions with their subject librarians by calling the Reference Desk at 989-774-3470. •

Reference librarian Rui Wang guides students during a research instruction session. 'This is not about a convenience for students, but about assisting students to look for the right sources in the right way and to get good help along the way,' Wang says.

